(b) if so, the number of such incidents that took place during the last three years and at which places and the details of the damage caused; and

(c) the names of persons found guilty and the action taken against the persons responsible for these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gauge conversion between Bikaner and Delhi

†3230. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the survey conducted for gauge conversion between Bikaner and Delhi, *via* Rewari; and

(b) by when the work for this gauge conversion from Bikaner to Delhi would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) A composite survey for gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur and Hissar-Sudulpur-Ratangarh-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana was conducted in March, 1999. As per survey report, the cost of conversion of these 605.49 kms. long lines was assessed as Rs. 542.65 crore with a rate of return as (+) 8.50%. The work of gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur (211 kms.) and Hissar-Sadulpur (70 kms.) has now been sanctioned and preliminary arrangements are being made to take up this portion of work. In view of heavy throwforward and acute constraint of resources, it is not feasible to take up gauge conversion of Sadulpur-Churu-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana at present. As regards gauge conversion between Delhi-Rewari section, one metre gauge line has already been converted to broad gauge and the work of gauge conversion of second line is in progress, the completion of which will be dovetailed with gauge conversion of metre gauge line of adjoining sections.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.